

## The Correlation between Children's Attachment of Working Mothers with Preschoolers' Socialization

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### ABSTRACT

Preschoolers begin to recognize the new environment, so the children are required to be able to socialize with the social environment. Many factors that influence the formation of preschoolers' social ability, one of those is the attachment of the child with the mother. That attachment is formed because of their interaction included the working mother. The attachment will impact the children's social ability in their environment. This research is quantitative correlation method. The purpose of this study is to determine the correlation between children's attachment of working mothers with their socialization. The population of this research is the working mothers of preschoolers in Semarang City, consist of 312 children from seven kindergartens in Semarang City that chosen randomly. The data were using Scale of Socialization measure that consists of 26 items that has a validity coefficient between 0.370 to 0.669 at a significance level of 1% and reliability coefficient of 0.880. The second one is Scale of Attachment measure that consist of 30 items, that has validity coefficient between 0.421 to 0.767 at a significance level of 1% and reliability coefficient of 0.920. The data analysis method used was product moment correlation. The result is  $p = 0,00$  at a significance level of 0,05,  $p < 0,05$ , so that there is correlation between children's attachment of working mothers with preschoolers' socialization. The results showed a pattern of social behavior socialization competition, sympathy and mimics are on a high category. While the behavior patterns of social cooperation, generosity, passion will be social acceptance, empathy, dependency, attitude is friendly, unselfish behavior and viscosity is very high on the category. For attachment to that aspect of attachment behavior, attachment bond and attachment behavioral system at high category. Research a general results are disseminated in category and high attachment is very high on the category.

**Keywords:** Attachment, Working Mothers, Socialization, Preschooler

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When enrolling in school, children interact with their new environment, the school environment. They socialized with new friends they just know and meet more strangers. The children develop their socialization skill when they are in the new environment and new people; they begin to interact with their surroundings.

The children who often left by their mothers to work are frequently stressed out, feel not needed and lack of affection (Maureenbabymart.co March 2015). Such psychological state is feared to bring effect on children's socialization at school. At school, children should be independent and have courage to learn and play by themselves "The psychosocial development and personality ever since preschool age up to the graduation are marked by expanding socialization, especially the friends of the same age" (Desmita, 2009:145). Children have their own way in socializing with the surrounding environment. Gradually they start to understand how to respond to the environment and know the good and bad in behaving in the school environment.

The research's results conducted by Komariah (2017:375) show that "Non authoritative parenting is the main factor causing low socialization skill. The children raised with non authoritative parenting have 52.8 higher risk to have low socialization skill after adaptation". From that study, parenting and adaptation could affect children's socialization skill. The children with low socialization skill will withdraw from their social environment, they prefer to play alone or play with their parents or nanny. With low adaptation, children feel safer to play alone or play with the people they have already known, thus their socialization skills are not improved.

The result of the preliminary study in TK Bina Citra Cendekia Ungaran, children have high socialization skills, and this is disclosed by the class teachers and Principal. This is strengthened by the observation conducted by the researcher and class teachers. The preliminary study's data show that 20 students in one class all show social behavior pattern. Social behavior patterns of cooperation, competition and generosity are frequently showed by all students in the classroom. While for social behavioral pattern of attachment was shown by 2 children in class, and empathy was demonstrated by 4 children. Social behavior patterns emerge, however they are not being able to be categorized as high. Moreover the observation results show that children exhibit social behavior.

The relationship between children and parents have great effect on children's social development. However, the relationship/ bonding between parents and children is not only parenting. Attachment is the relationship built by children as a convenient and security symbol of their parents especially mother. Attachment is becoming the beginning of the relationship between parents and children because it is formed since they were babies and affect their behavior until they grow up.

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Attachment is the emotional bonding of the children which started to develop ever since they were babies, thus the bonding built is a strong bonding with people who have special meaning to them. The relationship formed by the children with their parents has particular affective characteristics thus it can be called bonding, which is bonding in attachment in quite a long term, the bonding made by children exists though children do not see the bonding figure therefore when the children are not with the bonding figure, they feel secure. The attachment relationship between children and parents in their childhood affects the children's personality through grown up.

“When children start to know their environment, they need their parents to be around so they will feel secure when they need it. This becomes the basis for children to develop their social skill and self esteem. Either when the children feel insecure when they started to know the environment, they will not be able to develop good social skill compares to when they feel secure.” Choquette ([www.bestart.org](http://www.bestart.org)).

In preschool setting, children with secured attachment have been proven to have more friends , have less conflict with the children of their age, show better self-regulation behavior, and tend to interpret aggressive behavior by others is intentionally or unintentionally. Moreover, the preschoolers, commonly having very secured attachment, involve in symbolic playing and cooperation which are more accurate, less aggressive and more popular among their colleagues. (Lamont, 2010).

In several cases, sometimes mother plays her double roles as housewife and working mother. The mothers choose to work outside the house have their own reasons such as utilizing the education they attained, helping to make ends meet, etc. The data from BPS (Central Bureau of Statistics) for Central Java Province in 2015, the number of female workers in the rural areas was 15.88%, while the number of the female workers in urban areas is 17.11%. The percentage of the female workers in urban areas was higher than that in the rural areas. That number was fluctuating, in 2013 the workers in urban areas was 17.20% and raised in 2014 to 18.05%. While for rural areas in 2013 was 15.91% and in 2014 was 16.21%.

The high percentage of the female workers including working mothers proves that nowadays mothers are not only playing their role as housewives only. Even though working mothers accept the consequences in doing two activities at once as housewives and work demands. The work load to be done sometimes reduces the time for their children. Therefore the meeting quantity with their children is less, and this perhaps will affect the parenting's quality.

For working mothers, the time to meet their children is limited. In the morning, those mothers are busy preparing all the household chores and affairs and also their working affairs. Thus the attachment is less adequate for their children; they do not develop enough attachment with their mothers. (Engels, 2001:229).

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The attachment built by the children with their mothers will affect the children's development. However will the reduced role of a mother when children need environmental exploration help because of the demands of work affect the children's development as well? Especially in the children's socialization, because when children start to build social relation with others, they will need their mothers or their attachment objects' help. Therefore the researcher would like to find out the relationship between children attachment to their working mothers on the preschoolers' socializations.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study conducted is a quantitative research with correlational research design, which is a research conducted to determine the relationship between two or more variables (Purwanto, 2013:17). This research determines the relationship between X variable which is attachment and Y variable which is socialization. This correlational study is not only to find out the relation solely, but also to involve prediction on the increase of variable Y caused by variable X. This research functions to examine the effect of children attachment to working mothers on the level of preschoolers' socialization. The population in this research is the working mothers of the preschoolers in Semarang municipality. The population in this research is 686 preschoolers. The sample random sampling was applied by doing sampling randomly from the population regardless the strata in population. The sampling of the research is 312 subjects from 7 kindergartens in Semarang Municipality.

The data collecting method in this research is using socialization scale and attachment scale. Socialization scale is using social behaviors of cooperation, competition, generosity, desire of social approval, sympathy, empathy, dependency, hospitality, unselfishness, imitation, attachment behavior. While the attachment scale uses attachment behavior, attachment bond, attachment behavioral system aspects.

### **RESULTS**

In this research, try out method was used, with sample for tryout of 30 respondents. The scale validity test's result of 26 items has validity coefficient of 0,370 to 0,669 with level of significance of 1% with 2 items fall and reliability coefficient of 0,880, therefore that scale is valid and reliable. The result of validity and reliability tests on attachment scale of 30 items with validity coefficient of 0.421 to 0.767 with significance level of 1% with 3 items fall and reliability coefficient of 0,920 thus that scale is valid and reliable.

#### ***The Socialization Depiction of Preschool Children***

From the research's results in general, the socialization of the preschoolers in Semarang municipality is 51.93% in high category while 41.94% is in very high category and for the moderate category is 6.08%. The preschoolers' socialization has 11 social behavioral patterns, formed from: cooperation, competition, generosity, desire of social acceptance, sympathy, empathy, dependency, hospitality, unselfishness, imitation and attachment. Based on the descriptive analysis result, the cooperation behavior pattern is in very high category

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with percentage of 55.12%. Furthermore, the social behavior pattern of competition is 64.20% belongs to the high category.

Whereas the social behavior pattern of generosity is in very high category, with percentage of 58,01%. The social behavior pattern of desire to be social approval is in very high category with percentage of 66,02%. The social behavior pattern of sympathy is in high category with percentage of 34,61%. The social behavior pattern of empathy is in very high category with percentage of 77,56%. The behavior pattern of dependency is in very high category with percentage of 41.67%. While the social behavior pattern of hospitality is in very high category of 53.84%.

The behavior pattern of unselfishness is in very high category with percentage of 47.43%. The social behavior pattern of imitation is in high category with percentage of 33,34%. The social behavior pattern of attachment is in very high category with the percentage of 46,15%. Belong to the high category, it means that the children of preschool often show social behavior pattern. While children with moderate socialization category is rarely show social behavior pattern. Children with very high or high socialization ability have skills to interact with their environment well. Therefore the social relationships built by the children with other people as well as their friends of their age is well.

In this research, the socialization abilities measured were those who went to regular kindergarten, as in research conducted by Astuti (2009), the children who go to regular kindergarten have higher socialization ability. The results are in line with this research, in which the socialization ability of preschool kindergarten children in Semarang is in high category.

### ***The Attachment of Children to Working Mothers Description***

The research results show that most of the respondents have high attachment. As many as 72.75% children attachment to working mothers is in very high category, for the high category is 26.60% and for moderate category is 0.65%. The attachment has three aspects which are *attachment behavior*, *attachment bond*, and *attachment behavioral system*. Based on the descriptive analysis, the description of attachment behavior aspect is in very high category with percentage of 83,97%. For *attachment bond* aspect is in the very high category with percentage of 42,94% and *attachment behavioral system* aspect is in very high category with percentage of 74,67%. "High attachment depicts secured attachment to parents" (Ma & Huebner, 2008). In this study, the level of attachment of the children to working mothers was measured from mothers' perspectives, in which mothers filled in the attachment scale. The attachment found was in very high category where high attachment could affect several preschoolers' behavior such as independency and personal sanitary elaborated in the previous research. Moreover, the attachment built by children when they were babies could affect them when they grow up, not only when they were in preschool age. In this research, the focus is on the effect of children attachment to working mothers in preschool age. The

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attachment of children to their working mother is in the very high, high and moderate categories.

### DISCUSSION

Simultaneously, attachment variable related to socialization variable significantly, the relationship is proven by product moment correlation test's result when  $p = 0,00$  significance level is  $0,05$ . Thus  $p < 0,05$  meaning that there is a significant relationship between children attachment to working mothers and preschoolers' socialization. The relation between two variables is strengthened by the research conducted by Anapratwi "(2013) which stated that there is a relation between children attachment to mothers and children's socialization in the age of 4-5 years old." In that research, the children socialization ability measured was in the age range of 4-5 years, while in this study the respondents' age range is 4-6 years old. Moreover, the children attachment to mothers in this research is more specific, which is children attachment to working mothers, therefore even though the same variable measured; this research is more specific in determining its respondents.

Other research supporting this research is conducted by Nora (2015) stated "the attachment affects children's socialization ability positively, self esteem has direct effect on children socialization ability and attachment affects positively on children's self esteem." The attachment affects children socialization and self esteem, the attachment itself affects positively on children socialization. In that research, both attachment and socialization become independent variables, and attachment has positive effect on socialization. While in this research, socialization is dependent variable and attachment is independent variable, but the results of this research keep showing that attachment and socialization have significant relation. It is then concluded that if attachment and socialization become dependent and independent variables or both become independent variables, they keep having positive relationship. memiliki hubungan yang positif.

This research's result shows that attachment built by preschoolers to their working mother is in very high category 72,75% meaning that almost all children with working mothers have secured attachment. However, several children are in moderate attachment category. This result is in line with the research of Almani(2012)". In that research, it was stated that there is no significant difference between children who have working mothers and not working mothers; Children with working mothers regard the mother's job positively. Eventhough the attachment built by the children of working mothers is declining. In that research, working mothers are mothers who work full time, thus they do not have time for their children.

The research results show that mothers still have time to pay attention to her children's development, proved by the research results, the attachment variable is in very high category and socialization is in high category. When mothers have limited time to be with their children the mothers will use time better. The meeting quality with their children will be better compared to when they are with the children. Working mothers have the ability to use

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time with their children, therefore with that limited time is not going to hinder the bonding between children and mothers. Similar to this research results -working mothers but still have time for children so does this research resulted in working mothers but still have time for children perhaps could form very high attachment in preschoolers. With this very high attachment, children's socialization in preschool age will as well be high.

Based on the hypothesis test and research's result analysis, it can be concluded that:

1. The socialization of preschoolers in Semarang municipality is in high category.
2. The attachment of the children to their working mothers is in very high category.
3. There is a relationship between the the attachment of the children to their working mothers on the preschoolers's socialization.

Based on the research conducted by the researcher, it is suggested that, for Parents, Mothers who have jobs should keep thinking about their children development despite their responsibility in their work, thus the children will still have good quality relationship with their mothers and the children keep having their mothers' attention. For School, The school needs to give support by training the children's ability in socialization at school's environment, gives a lot of stimuli so that children are able to interact with their friends. Therefore the children are able to interact with their friends and to socialize in school environment. For the next researcher, researcher could conduct a research about attachment and socialization to working mothers by adding the type of job and mother's working hour more specifically.

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